Howland Wood - Curatorial

National Geographic Society
[Washington, D.C.]

1919-1934

National Geographic Society
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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March 21, 1919

American Numismatic Society,
Broadway and 156th Street,
New York City

Gentlemen:

We are interested in securing for publication in color in the National Geographic Magazine a set of photographs of the Military Medals of the principal nations of the world, particularly the more important medals given by the nations which were engaged in the Great War. We would greatly appreciate any suggestions you may care to make as to how such a set of illustrations might be obtained.

Yours very sincerely,

F. L. Fisher

F-R

Editorial Staff

March 22nd, 1919.

Mr. F. L. Fisher,
National Geographic Society,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of March 21st at hand. We would be very glad to co-operate with you in regard to publishing in your magazine various military medals that we have. As you well know a great many magazines and other publications have made use of our collection in making reproductions both in black and color. They have either taken photographs of what they wanted, or in some cases we have supplied them prints of those that we have ourselves photographed. When they have reproduced in color they have either copied the colors from previous illustrations or have made their color sketches up here. One concern I think made four color negatives direct here at the Society. As we can not let the medals out of the building, I think it would be well for you to determine just how you want these made and make arrangements in New York for the proper coloring of these medals. Probably it would be best if one of your Staff when in New York could take the matter up with us in detail, and make the proper arrangements then. As a matter of fact we have not been wholly satisfied with the majority of the reproductions that have been made up to date, and think that they could be done better. I feel sure that your magazine would want these made in the best possible manner. For this reason I have gone into this lengthy explanation. We will be very glad to co-operate and assist you to the best of our ability.

Yours very truly,

Curator.

National Geographic Society
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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June 14, 1923

American Numismatic Society,
156th Street and Broadway,
New York City.

My dear Sirs:

The National Geographic Society is in receipt of a pewter medallion from one of its members in Australia. We have submitted it to Mr. T. T. Belote, Curator of History, of the Smithsonian Institution, who suggests that it is probable that your organization, which has an exceptionally fine and complete collection of British medals, may be able to furnish the owner with specific information concerning the origin of the piece, which was presumably cast about 1829.

I shall appreciate the courtesy if you will give me any information concerning it, and also give me an estimate as to its probable value. The medallion is being sent by express, and I shall be glad if you will return it in the same manner, insured, after examination.

Very truly yours,

Gilbert Grosvenor
President.

G-IC

June 16th, 1923

Gilbert Grosvenor, Esq.
National Geographic Society
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of June 14th as well as the medal about which you write, just received. We have this Medal in our Museum and have seen two or three others, but we know absolutely nothing concerning it - as to why it was made, etc. We have, however, written to the British Museum to see what they can tell us; and when I receive their reply, shall be glad to write you again. I doubt, however, if the medal has any value as it does not appear to be rare, and pewter medals command but little premium.

I will have the medal returned to you by express very shortly.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW/E

July 7th, 1923

Gilbert Grosvenor, Esq.
National Geographic Society
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

In reply to my letter addressed to the British Museum regarding the pewter medallion about which you wrote in your favour of June 14th, I received this day the enclosed letter which I take pleasure in enclosing for your information.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW/E

TELEPHONE
DISTRICT 3330

CABLE ADDRESS
NATGEOSOC, WASHINGTON

# National Geographic Society

WASHINGTON, D. C.

GILBERT GROSVENOR, PRESIDENT
JOHN JOY EDSON, TREASURER

JOHN OLIVER LA GORCE, VICE PRESIDENT
GEORGE W. HUTCHISON, SECRETARY

May 11, 1934.

The American Numismatic Society,
Broadway, bet. 155th and 156th Streets,
New York City.

Gentlemen:

Enclosed herewith is our check for $3.50, covering your charge of April 23 for photographing Malay tin coins, at the request of Mrs. Alicia O'Reardon Overbeck.

We appreciate your cooperation.

Yours very truly,

Gerard Hubbard

GH:MD.
Check encl.

Gerard Hubbard.
Illustrations Division.

TELEPHONE
DISTRICT 3330

CABLE ADDRESS
NATGEOSOC, WASHINGTON

National Geographic Society

WASHINGTON, D. C.

GILBERT GROSVENOR, PRESIDENT
JOHN JOY EDSON, TREASURER

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August 3, 1934.

American Numismatic Society,
Broadway and 155th Streets,
New York City.

Gentlemen:

For possible illustration of an article on platinum soon to be published in the National Geographic Magazine, we should like to receive for editorial consideration suitable glossy prints of any pictures which you may have of the three-six and twelve ruble pieces of platinum issued by the Russians between 1828 and 1845. Any assistance or information as to sources of such pictures will be appreciated.

Many thanks for your cooperation.

Yours very truly,

Gerard Hubbard

GH:md.

Gerard Hubbard.
Illustrations Division.

August 6, 1934.

National Geographic Society
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen: Attention: G. Hubbard
Illustrations Division

Your favor of August 3rd is at hand. We have no photographs of the three platinum pieces you desire. We can make photographs, however, and if you desire to show both sides of each piece the price will be $6.00. We would suggest that we show the denomination side of the three and 12 ruble pieces and the other side of the six. By doing that we can make one negative at a price of $3.50. We will not be photographing for a few days so no time is lost in writing. On receipt of an answer from you we will proceed.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

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# National Geographic Society

WASHINGTON, D. C.

GILBERT GROSVENOR, PRESIDENT
JOHN JOY EDSON, TREASURER

JOHN OLIVER LA GORCE, VICE PRESIDENT
GEORGE W. HUTCHISON, SECRETARY

August 8, 1934

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator,
The American Numismatic Society,
Broadway Between 155th and 156th Sts.,
New York, New York.

Dear Mr. Wood:

We should be very glad to have you make us the negative suggested in your letter of August 6. That is, a picture showing the denomination side of the three and 12 ruble pieces and the other side of the six. We appreciate your offer to cooperate with us in this matter.

We shall be glad to receive the negative together with the bill.

Very truly yours,

Gerard Hubbard

Gerard Hubbard.
Illustrations Division.

GH:mdh

P. S. When you send the negative, please send us a brief statement describing the picture, telling where it was taken, what it shows, and any facts of interest regarding it.

G. H.

TELEPHONE
DISTRICT 3330

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NATGEOSOC, WASHINGTON

National Geographic Society

WASHINGTON, D. C.

GILBERT GROSVENOR, PRESIDENT
JOHN JOY EDSON, TREASURER

JOHN OLIVER LA GORCE, VICE PRESIDENT
GEORGE W. HUTCHISON, SECRETARY

August 28, 1934.

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator,
The American Numismatic Society,
Broadway between 155th and 156th Streets,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Wood:

We were glad to receive the glass negative and the four prints of the 3, 6, and 12 ruble platinum pieces, sent to us on August 22. Do you have available any information descriptive of these coins? Any available facts of interest will be appreciated.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Yours very truly,

GH:md.

Gerard Hubbard.
Illustrations Division.

P. S. Payment for the negative will be made within the near future.

G. H.

Issued from May 1828 - 1845

August 29, 1934.

Mr. Gerard Hubbard
Illustrations Division
National Geographic Society
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of August 28th about the only facts concerning the platinum coins are as follows. They were issued by the Russian government between May 1828 and 1845. The reason largely was that there were vast quantities of platinum in Russia for which there was little use. They thought to make use of this metal they would make it into coins, taking its position between silver and gold. At first they appealed to the Russian people, especially the 3 ruble piece. This encouraged the Russian government to keep on striking the pieces. After a few years the general populace became tired as they had no exchange outside of Russia. In fact, quantities had been sent out of the country to China, Bokara and other places in payment of accounts, and were returned and they began to accumulate in large numbers in the Imperial Treasury. In 1843 it was decided to discontinue the coinage of these but this was not done until 1845. The government then redeemed or presented and paid for them either in gold or silver. No other nation has issued platinum coins. At one time counterfeits of gold coins were made in platinum and then gilded as the weight was very nearly the same.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

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National Geographic Society

WASHINGTON, D. C.

GILBERT GROSVENOR, PRESIDENT
JOHN JOY EDSON, TREASURER

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GEORGE W. HUTCHISON, SECRETARY

August 31, 1934.

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator,
The American Numismatic Society,
Broadway between 155th and 156th Streets,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Wood:

Thank you for your letter of August 29, giving us the interesting information regarding the Russian platinum coins.

We appreciate the help you have given us in preparing the platinum story.

Yours very truly,

Gerard Hubbard

GH:md.

Gerard Hubbard.
Illustrations Division.

TELEPHONE
DISTRICT 3330

CABLE ADDRESS
NATGEOSOC, WASHINGTON

# National Geographic Society

WASHINGTON, D. C.

GILBERT GROSVENOR, PRESIDENT
JOHN JOY EDSON, TREASURER

JOHN OLIVER LA GORCE, VICE PRESIDENT
GEORGE W. HUTCHISON, SECRETARY

September 13, 1934.

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator,
The American Numismatic Society,
Broadway between 155th and 156th Streets,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Wood:

Enclosed herewith is our check for $3.50, for the purchase of our right of reproduction of your negative of the platinum ruble pieces, according to your statement of August 22.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Yours very truly,

Franklin Fisher

F:md.
Check encl.

Franklin Fisher.
Chief of Illustrations Division.